indeed flows "through a marble wilderness." We have not time to speak of that "stern round tower of other days,"* nor of

"The mole which Hadrian rear'd on high,
Imperial mimic of old Egypt's piles."†—*Byron.*

We have not time even to glance at the 850 baths, the 300 palaces, the basilicas, the forums, nor at the domestic architecture of the Romans, as made clear to us in the buried cities, Pompeii and Herculaneum; but we must always feel unbounded admiration at the genius of a people who have left behind them such records of their power,—whose noble roads and walls we find even yet in Britain, the *ultima Thule* of their conquests; whose arches and pillars are to be seen in Africa; whose

"Temples, palaces,—a wond'rous dream,
That passes not away, for many a league
Illumine yet the desert."—*Rogers.*

And still gleam in Tadmor, in the wilderness, and Geraza in Palestine, relics of that Rome, who, if she conquered the world, also diffused with liberal hand the blessings of peace in works of usefulness and beauty.

"She who was nam'd Eternal, and array'd
Her warriors but to conquer—she, who veil'd
Earth with her haughty shadow, and display'd,
Until the o'er-canopied horizon fail'd,
Her rushing wings."—*Byron.*

And if, in the song of the Italian peasant of the day,—

"Roma! Roma! Roma!
Roma non è più come era prima,"

we hear the mournful dirge of a mighty race, we, who have still their wonderful works to gaze upon, must feel gratitude to those great spirits of the past, who, in their architecture, have raised up immortal trophies of their enterprize, their dominion, and their taste, and bequeathed them as a rich legacy to after ages.

G. R. FRENCH.

## BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

WE would direct the attention of our readers to the circumstance, that the anniversary dinner of this valuable institution is fixed for Wednesday, July the 18th, and we would, further, solicit them to assist in the objects of the institution. The Earl of Carlisle has promised to take the chair, and the advertisement in another column shews that the list of stewards is already very strong and influential. We are disposed to anticipate a brilliant meeting.

Some alterations have been made in the laws, with the view of enabling the committee to grant pensions sooner than was at first proposed, and they hope before long to get into work. We sincerely wish them success.

It is worth noting, as supplying a sign of the times, that to fulfil the duties of secretary to this institution, which demand the whole time of the officer, and are paid for by a salary of 50*l.* per annum, the committee had no less than 105 applicants.

## AMENDMENT OF THE BUILDINGS' ACT.

AT a meeting of the Carpenters' Society, held on the 30th ult., Mr. Nesham, the president, in the chair, it was resolved, "That owing to the uncertainty which prevails as to the progress of the intended New Buildings' Bill, the president be requested to address a letter, on the part of the society, to the Earl of Carlisle, representing the urgent necessity for its introduction during the present session of Parliament." A letter has been accordingly addressed to his Lordship, and it is to be hoped that the new Bill will be no longer delayed. The seventy-fourth anniversary dinner of this old established society is about to take place.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION was opened on the 4th inst., and comprises 4,500 exhibitors. The building is 800 feet long and 350 feet wide, containing three courts, one of which is filled with metal work, chiefly cast-iron and zinc. The erection of the building alone is said to have cost 36,000*l.*, but this seems scarcely credible.

* The tomb of Cecilia Metella, called Capo di Bove.
† Now the castle of S. Angelo.

## CARVED STALLS FROM FIEZOLE, TUSCANY.

[16TH CENTURY.]

### CARVED STALLS FROM FIEZOLE, TUSCANY.

THE stalls in the cathedral of Fiezole were executed in the sixteenth century, and are good specimens of the art of that epoch. We give a representation of one division from a drawing made purposely for us. The heights are figured in inches.

The sketch added by our artist in the lower part, appears to represent the disposition of another portion of the stalls, but is not clearly explained.

## NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

A NEW stained glass window has been presented to Ely Cathedral, by Mr. Warrington: subjects, the Nativity and the Annunciation. It is put up near the font.——Halstead old church is now, it seems, about to be repaired. Estimates have been got, and the requisite means, it is thought, will be provided altogether by voluntary subscription. In the interior the pews are to be replaced by open benches.——The Independents are about to build a new college in St. John's Wood, in the place of the Homerton, Highbury, and Coward Colleges, the sale of the two former of which was lately announced.——The yearly receipts at the Canterbury Museum, since the charge was reduced to one penny, have been double the amount realized when the charge was sixpence.——Some large factory buildings have been erected at Northam, by Mr. Gambling, builder, for Messrs. Summers, Day, and Baldock, steam engineers and boiler makers, who already possessed an extensive series of factories, shops, &c., there. The slate roofing of the new erections alone comprises 500 slaters' squares of 100 square feet to a square. It includes foundries, smith's shops, turning factories, &c. The blasts to the whole are produced by two fans, making 1,270 revolutions a-minute, and these, with the lathes, &c. are worked by a steam engine of 10-horse power. Northam is now all new bricks and mortar: the river side path is covered with factories.——St. Mary's Church, Truro, is re-opened. The pews have been replaced by low open seats of oak, with ornamented ends. The passage-flooring throughout is laid in patent tiles of warm colouring. The organ has been removed from the nave gallery to the western arch of the north aisle, a portion of the north gallery having been taken away to make room for it. A western window of stained glass, it is said, will be provided in connection with alterations in that part of the church.——A new church is in contemplation for the hamlet of Charlton, parish of Downton, Wilts, at an estimated cost (including a sum for repairs) of about 1,250*l.* The endowment has been provided conjointly by Lord Nelson, the warden and fellows of Winchester College, and the vicar of Downton; and a site offered by Mr. Newman, of Charlton. ——It is proposed, in commemoration of the three hundredth anniversary of the institution of the English Prayer-book, to erect a stained-glass window, of appropriate design, in Chester

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